Reservation for Muslim minority community in the OBC quota

4047. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage out of the 27 per cent reservation for OBCs for education, shall be reserved for the Muslim minority community;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how the education of minority community shall be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Any reservation based on religion is violative of the Constitution. OBC groups within the Muslim community will be entitled to benefits for education under 27% reservation for OBCs.

Alternative education centres under SSA in Uttarakhand

†4048. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Operational Alternative Education Centres under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Uttarakhand, students studying and instructors working therein;

(b) whether funds have been allocated for operation of the said Abhiyan by the Central Government, for the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) SSA Uttarakhand has reported that 161 Alternative Education Centres are operational, in which 6808 children are studying. The number of instructors working is 204.

(b) to (d) An amount of Rs. 811.27 lakhs has been provided, for interventions for 55743 out of school children in Uttarakhand for the year 2008-09.

Growth of literacy

4049. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the National Literacy Mission launched by our former Prime Minister, late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, literacy rate gradually grew from 44 per cent to 65 per cent in 2001;

(b) if so, what was the literacy rate till 31st December, 2007; and

(c) whether the Mission needs to be revamped, especially to focus on girls' literacy to bring it at par with boys' literacy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Literacy rate of the country has increased from 52.21% in 1991 to 64.84% in 2001 registering one of the highest decadal growth in literacy so far.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.